



## *The Public Service Commission State of South Carolina*

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290148  
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Clerk's Office  
Phone: (803) 896-5100  
Fax: (803) 896-5199

January 31, 2020

Mr. Joseph Trykowski  
Drive  
a 29045-9197

Dear Mr. Trykowski:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments emailed to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina on January 30, 2020. Your additional Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).

- Docket No. 2019-281-S - Application of Palmetto Utilities, Incorporated for Adjustment (Increase) of Rates and Charges, Terms and Conditions, for Sewer Service Provided to Customers in Its Richland and Kershaw County Service Areas

A Protestant is an individual objecting on the ground of private or public interest to the approval of an Application, Petition, Motion or other matters which the Commission may have under consideration. A Protestant may offer sworn testimony but cannot cross-examine witnesses offered by other parties.

According to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, filing a Protest does not make you a Party of Record. A Protestant desiring to become an Intervenor (i.e., a Party of Record) in a proceeding before the Commission may file a Petition for Intervention within the time prescribed by the Commission.

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If we may be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
Clerk's Office

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 8:46 AM  
**To:** PSC\_Contact  
**Subject:** [External] Please Provide Some Character

South Carolina Public Service Commission,

Subject: Please Provide Some Character

Good Morning to whoever at the SCPSC gets this.

I doubt anyone at the SCPSC will be read this, let alone actually do something to support the consumer and make Utilities accountable. Your track record with the electric industry has not been admirable. Another, case in point is the current request for a rate hike for sewer by the Palmetto Utilities, Inc. Let's look at their latest increase.

Interesting to note with over 800,000 people in the Columbia area the last increase in sewer charges generates \$149,760,000 annually for Palmetto Utilities. Add that to the new proposed increase \$139,392,000 Palmetto Utilities will generate \$289,152,000 annually. Remember this is an annual return. So what are they doing with almost \$300,000,000 every year? What the heck do they expect from us? When do they prove what they need this for? It appears they are hiding behind a private equity fund making it very difficult to see their financial activity. What is the SCPUC doing? Waving goodbye to our money?

This has got to end. Comparison with other Utilities as Palmetto Utilities, Inc. proposed, is meaningless to us. Palmetto Utilities Inc., accounted for \$88 and maybe another \$10 million, which still is a bit short of the initial increase which is generating \$149,760,000 annually. What are you doing with the rest?

I don't know how to determine the legitimacy or the Palmetto Utilities Inc., latest proposed rate hikes. You may know some of the history, but it now appears the average consumer has nothing to say on this matter.

1. The last rate hike was from \$36.50 to \$52.10.
  - This increase represents a 42.7% (43%) rate hike.
    - ✓ It was to cover capital improvements for expansion. Maybe a tier for new residents versus older residents need to be applied. Why do I have to pay for upgrades for a system expansion.
    - ✓ Not sure what the executives, board, or even employees got for raises, but 43% would have covered quite a bit.

- ✓ Inflation of 3.5% at most is surely covered by a 43% increase.
  - ✓ **Where is the accountability for the extra funds. Heck the state has even asked lately for accountability for road repair**
  - ✓ This is applied by residence despite the number of residents living in a home. 1 resident pays the same as 3, 4, or 5, residents. This is itself not fair.
  - ✓ Does Palmetto Utilities have any idea of the affect this has on fixed income individual living alone? Do they even care?
2. The most recent proposed rate hike is from \$52.10 to \$66.62
- ✓ Despite the previous rate hike this new increase to \$66.62 or 27.85% increase took only about 6 months. **OR WORSE YET 81.36% since May of 2019, THAT IS ridiculous. And the same reason have been provided.**
  - ✓ It was to cover capital improvements for expansion. Maybe a tier for new residents versus older residents need to be applied. Why do I have to pay for upgrades for a system expansion.
  - ✓ Not sure what the executives, board, or even employees got for raises, but 43% would have covered quite a bit.
  - ✓ Inflation of 3.5% at most is surely covered by a 43% increase.
  - ✓ **Where is the accountability for the extra funds. Heck the state has even asked lately for accountability for road repair**
  - ✓ This is applied by residence despite the number of residents living in a home. 1 resident pays the same as 3, 4, or 5, residents. This is itself not fair.
  - ✓ Does Palmetto Utilities have any idea of the affect this has on fixed income individual living alone? Do they even care?

This is a private company and who the heck controls them. Where is the Accountability.?

The Company's spokesperson states: "We understand budgets are tight. We understand this may present a hardship for some of our customers," said Powell-Baker. "There are programs out there for assistance for paying utilities and we certainly refer our customers to those services...We always, always have a sensitivity to that."

Sensitivity? Who is Powell-Baker kidding. She probably makes six figures over twice. And what does this do for the continued expenditures of the company and accountability. IT IS AS IF THEY, PALMETTO UTILITIES, WILL CONTINUE TO SPEND, WITH NO ACCOUNTABILITY, BECAUSE THEY ARE GETTING REIMBURSED. This is insane ..... What is the South Carolina Public Service Commission doing?

Oh and even better, was her statement:

"Some of the expenses we attempted to recover on were not allowed because they were outside of the test year that the PSC allowed," said Powell-Baker. "There is a regulatory test year and your expenses have to occur within that test year."

So they, Lockhart Power, a Pacolet Milliken Company, missed the test year, spending millions without any approval and now want more money.

Have you checked out their profitability. Best I can tell they are a Private Equity Company and all is well hidden. Get some facts at see where it takes you. If you have the guts and gumption.

Please do something for us SCPSC

✓  
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**Latimer, Becky**

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**From:** Latimer, Becky  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2020 2:57 PM  
**To:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject:** 2019-281-S Name spelled wrong correction

Dear George Hood,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).

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Sincerely,  
Becky Latimer

FROM :H00d

FAX NO. :8037884251

Jan. 31 2020 10:40AM P1

Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100  
Columbia, SC 29210

Phone: 803-896-5100

Fax: 803-896-5199

www.psc.sc.gov

Save as PDF file and Email form

to: contact@psc.sc.gov

## Letter of Protest

Docket No. 2019-281-S

\* Required Fields

Date: \*

## Protestant Information

Name \*

George Hood

Mailing Address \*

City, State Zip \*

Columbia, SC

E-mail

1

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? \* For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am a customer of Palmetto Utilities.

2. Please give a concise statement of your protest. \* (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

I am strongly opposed to Palmetto Utilities' request for a sewer rate hike. Any increase to my sewer bill would impose an undue burden and create a financial hardship. Further, any increase to my sewer bill would be unfair when considering that my usage has not increased.

3. Do you wish to make an appearance at a hearing in this proceeding, if scheduled, and offer sworn testimony?

Yes, I wish to appear at a hearing in this proceeding and offer sworn testimony.

Signature Required:

George Hood

**Latimer, Becky**

**From:** Latimer, Becky  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** 2019-281-S

Dear Michael Jackson,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Letter of Protest/Comments to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina. Your Letter of Protest/Comments will be placed in the Protest File of the Docket listed below and on the Commission's Website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).

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Sincerely,  
Becky Latimer

101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100  
Columbia, SC 29210

Fax: 803-896-5199

www.psc.sc.gov

Save as PDF file and Email form

to: contact@psc.sc.gov

\* Required Fields

# Letter of Protest

## Docket No. 2019-281-S

Date: \* 1/31/20

**Protestant Information:**

Name \* MICHAEL A. JACKSON

Mailing Address \*

City, State Zip \* Columbia, SC

Phone \*

E-mail

1. What is your connection or interest in this case? \* For example, are you a customer of the Company that is the subject of this pending proceeding? (This section must be completed. Attach additional information if necessary.)

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Signature Required:

